



JAMES A. NOYES, Director

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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IN REPLY PLEASE  
REFER TO FILE: **WR-1**

June 6, 2002

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**BUREAU THREAT ASSESSMENTS OF COUNTY DAMS  
APPROVE AGREEMENT  
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 5  
3 VOTES**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

Approve and authorize the Director of Public Works to execute an agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to conduct threat assessments for Public Works' dams for a not to exceed fee of \$42,000 to be financed by the Fiscal Year 2001-02 Flood Control District funds and establish the effective date following your Board's approval.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

We are recommending that your Board approve and authorize the Director of Public Works to execute an agreement with the Bureau to conduct threat assessments for Public Works' dams and to establish the effective date following your Board's approval. These assessments will identify vulnerabilities and make recommendations for reducing the risks and threats.

Public Works requires that threat assessments be conducted at nine of its major dams that, if damaged, could result in large, uncontrolled releases of water to downstream communities. The necessary expertise and experience to conduct these studies are not presently available within Public Works. The Bureau is recommended to perform this work because of its experience and qualifications in conducting threat assessments for dams throughout the country. In addition to its knowledge of security measures and protocols, the Bureau has the

necessary engineering knowledge and experience with dam operations to understand the structural vulnerabilities of the dams. As the owner and agency responsible for threat assessments for several high-profile dams, such as Hoover Dam, the Bureau has worked closely with other Federal agencies like the FBI to gain a full understanding of the threats to dams, including those from terrorist activities.

Completion of the recommended studies by the Bureau will provide Public Works with adequate information to enable it to implement measures for reducing security risks and threats to the dams.

#### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

This action is consistent with the County Strategic Goal of Organizational Effectiveness as these services are not required frequently, and the Bureau has the expertise, experience, and qualifications to perform the required services. As a result, the Bureau can provide these services in a more efficient and cost-effective manner.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The recommended agreement for this project is for a not to exceed fee of \$42,000. This includes a base fee of \$35,000 for conducting the threat assessments and preparing the reports and \$7,000 for additional services that may be necessary as the work progresses. Additional work within this allowance will not be performed without prior written authorization from the Director of Public Works.

There will be no impact to the County's General Fund. Financing for these services is available in the Fiscal Year 2001-02 Flood Control District funds.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
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## **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

Pursuant to the Government Code Section 31000, the Board of Supervisors may enter into an agreement for special services on behalf of the County with specially trained persons to provide the services described herein, whereas such services are not available internally. The enclosed agreement has been reviewed from a legal standpoint and approved as to form by County Counsel. The agreement includes provisions whereby the expenditure of additional funds is subject to Director of Public Works' authorization.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

The approval of this agreement is statutorily exempt from State of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as specified in Section 15262 of the CEQA Guidelines. Any project that may be proposed as a result of these services will undergo the appropriate environmental review.

## **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

Not applicable.

## **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

There is no adverse impact on current services or projects during the performance of the recommended services.

## **CONCLUSION**

Please return one approved copy of this letter to Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES A. NOYES  
Director of Public Works

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cc: Chief Administrative Office, County Counsel